

DIME NOVEL ROUNDUP

OFFICIAL ORGAN--HAPPY HOURS BROTHERHOOD.

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"NICK CARTER AGAIN"

By Robert H. Smeltzer

I, for one, enjoyed greatly Brother Leithead's illuminating chats on the Nick Carter tales. They are instructive as well as entertaining.

I recall very vividly my introduction to Nick and his detective family, Chick & Patsy, via the "swap" route of a set of boxing gloves for about 100 copies of colored covered Nick Carter Weekly. And, then did I put my eyes to work?... Quite recently, I added to my collection, about twenty rare black-and-white Nick Carter Library; you know, the head showing Nick undisguised and also in about a half-dozen disguises. These covers are simply great.

Do you boys recall that one of the most prominent N.C. authors, Frederick Van Rennselaer Dey, in his last days, put his pen to writing cloth-bound detective stories? The principal character was "Alias, the Night Wind" and the nom de plume he adopted was Varick Vanardy.

What I set out to do is just this. For a month or so I have been seeing a coverless Magnet Library in a shop window. The title is, "Nick Carter's Double Catch" or, "Dazaar, the Vindictive.".. Brother Leithead's reference to the Dazaar tales moved me to buy the faded coverless copy for a nickel. It is indeed a thriller. For the benefit of those who have never read the novel, I would like to set down some of the outstanding features.. For instance, Dazaar was capable of standing across the street and throwing a jack-knife point first into a door lock.

Nick is captured by being chloroformed in in Dazaar's cab. When he opens his eyes he is in the torture mansion, his captor chuckling over the success of his ruse. His face was calm, placid and handsome. His manners, gentle, almost feminine. His voice was harmoniously soft, like the purring of a sleepy cat. This incarnate fiend well hid his evil qualities.

The Maiden of Steel would soon caress Patsy; later on Nick would make her acquaintance. This fiendish steel device was coated on the inside with steel needles of varying length. The mechanism of the maiden caused it to close inwardly a thousandth part of an inch at a time... Nick is brought to view Patsy being tortured in this evil device, altho very heavy glass partitions off the rooms. But the "Little Giant" let go with his hefty feet and the glass was shattered to fragments, and then a terrible melee. Nick's faithful assistant from Japan, the inimitable Ten Ichi, is on the spot with his bag of polpa powder gas which overcomes the Dazaar outfit. Of course, Patsy was rescued.. However, later in the story Nick finds himself a prisoner for the second time, and these fiendish cruelties are in wait for him: The Maiden of Steel, the Spider's Cage; rendered bald and beardless by the plucking of one hair at a time; body scraped rough with a piece of glass, and when dying of thirst, given a teaspoonful of water at intervals.. Notwithstanding the sinister designs of Dazaar of the Seven, none of them work out in this tale, except his murder by a jack-knife thrust of a man who had fallen under Dazaar's influence, who had made an appointment to confer with Nick in an effort to bring the fiend to his just deserts. The start of the case hinges on this episode.. The chapters dealing with Dazaar's complete domination over his two women companions, and how even this dark

force was broken down by Nick, is very interesting.

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A LITTLE DIME NOVEL CHAT

By Reckless Ralph.

Boys, if the depression is not over, it is at the "turning point".

To look back across the years, I am as happy as a lark that I got linked up to this Dime Novel Hobby. I guess the good Lord had something to do with it, just the same as my pard, Bob Smeltzer often wonders how it came to pass, after he had given up all hope of ever gazing on a single copy of his favorite Golden Hours, or Diamond Dick, or a Nick Carter, or Young Klondike, and hundreds of others, that one eventful morning he should receive my post card inquiry.

Bob keeps talking about that all thru the years. As far as I am concerned I can't recall where I got his name and address, and why I wrote him about dime novels, for at that time Bob thought there was none to be had.. Both Bob and I, and a few others had very rough sledding. We were all glad to pay good prices for poor shape novels, if once in a while we'd get a copy in fair shape.

There were two chaps who sold novels then; one named Lorang (and did he substitute. When you got your order, you did not know it was intended for you). Then there was a chap named Staub, who sold them, 2 for 25¢, any kind of shape, and any kinds of novels. His motto was "take them or leave them.".. All this sort of thing is past-gone, but not forgotten by the early pioneers in the Dime novel game.

Take the case of Bob Smeltzer, who paid a good price for a run of shabby Golden Hours; and he was happy to put in many hours to patch them up. Still, in the end, some collector took them off his hands, after Bob had

annexed No.17 to about 800,from last Pres. of the National Golden Hours Club,Mr.Casimir Geibel.

Dime Novel trading is much easier now.Lots of them all around us,and one can specify condition.

Dime Novels have held up under the depression,too. This fact is very encouraging.along with the fact that nowadays We all have the names and addresses in every part of the United States.

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WM. J. BENNERS,SAYS:

The first of Nick Carter was in the novel, by John Russell Coryell,"The Old Detective's Pupil; or, The Mysterious Crime of Madison Square." published in the Street & Smith's New York Weekly,Vol.41,No.46,Sept.13,1886.

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Capt.Heron,or,The Highwayman of Epping Forest,appeared in CAPTAIN HERON SERIES OF HIGHWAYMAN TALES,No.1, 1862.

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Roland D.Sawyer of Ware,Mass. wants someone to aid him to name and author of a story of an English pirate--Plot ran as follows:-

An English lady,(think her name was Kate) rummaging an old house trips over trap door. A big pirate named Simon takes her before a concealed crew and captain. She is taken to sea.Captain proved to be the heir of an estate and her cousin.He is finally slain by a jealous quadroon girl who is on the ship and the lady is returned to her home port.

Story contained the old pirate song on Black Flag.

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